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City of Cincinnati Youth Initiatives

The Mayerson Foundation High School Service-Learning Program & University of Cincinnati Peace Village and Center for Community Engagement

16th Annual
Student Service Leadership Workshop
September 17, 2013

Youth Commission of Cincinnati

- Mayor-appointed commission created in April, 2012, to act as a voice for the concerns of youth within the City of Cincinnati, advise the Mayor and City Council on the needs of Cincinnati youth, and guide city leaders on decisions relating to youth concerns.

- Board members are drawn from a diverse group of organizations with experience working with youth. The YCC also includes several staff liaisons from the City Administration.

- Currently working on two initiatives:
  o Youth Study
  o Cincinnati Youth Summit

Overview of Cincinnati Youth

Who are our young people?[1]

> **22.1%** of all Cincinnatians are under 18 years old (65,624)

> **52.3%** are single parent households (45.1% single mother; 7.2% single father)

With ***48% of Cincinnati children living below the poverty line***,[2] the Cincinnati area has the ***third highest child poverty rating in the United States*** (behind Detroit and Cleveland).[3]

What does this mean for our children?

- Adolescents living in poverty are almost twice as likely to be obese (17% of those in poverty, 9% of non-poverty adolescents).[4]

- Teenage girls living in poverty are five times more likely to have an unintended pregnancy.[5]

- Children living in poverty are 1.3 times more likely to have developmental delays or learning disabilities.[6]

- Children living in poverty are twice as likely to repeat a grade.[7]

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Overview of Cincinnati Youth (cont.)

What does this mean for their future?

- Two-thirds of children who don't read at grade level by the end of 4th grade will either end up in jail or on welfare.[8]

- We already see the effects; Cincinnati has a lower percentage of high school graduates than both Ohio and the U.S. (83.6% in Cincinnati, compared to 87.6% in Ohio and 84.9% in the U.S).[9]

- Non-high school graduates in Cincinnati are more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line as high school graduates.[10]

- This cycle will continue if we don't do more to stop it.

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Cincinnati Youth Study

Our study will create a comprehensive understanding of the lives of Cincinnati youth, and provide systemic and community-wide recommendations that address the whole person. This approach will create a roadmap to help Cincinnati youth learn, live, and grow.

- *Unique Research*
  - Currently, there is no local data on youth in Cincinnati. The closest data is regional information, and is focused primarily on health statistics only.
  - This will incorporate the voice of Cincinnati youth and families directly.
  - The data will shed light on the state of Cincinnati youth, their resource utilization, perceived quality of life, perceived gaps, and suggestions for improvement from the youth themselves, their parents/ guardians, and key stakeholders.

- *Topics to be Studied:* The study will examine the whole child and his family, and encompass six areas: Crime; Education; Health; Poverty and Homelessness; Workforce Development; and Developmental Opportunities.

- *Methodology:* Will be completed in three phases, including (1) research and benchmarking, (2) on-site surveys of youth, parents, and key stakeholders, and (3) in-depth profiles of select group of Cincinnati youth and their families.

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Cincinnati Youth Survey Overview

YCC Focus Areas:
- Crime
- Developmental Opportunities
- Health
- Poverty & Homelessness
- Education
- Employment/ Workforce Development

Youth Survey and Gap Analysis

- Research and Data Review
- Youth Profiles
- Youth and Parent Surveys
- Key Stakeholder Surveys
- Benchmarking for Progress and Success

Cincinnati Youth Survey Goals

The Status of Youth in Cincinnati

- Understand Strengths and Challenges for Youth

- Assess Gaps and Needs in Existing Programs and Services

- Understand the Priorities of Youth (and parents) for what is needed to support positive youth development

- Determine Opportunities for advancing development in Cincinnati youth and ensuring progress over time (YCC Vision)

Key Questions

- What is the state of our youth?
- How well are youth developing/progressing?
- What are current resources/services?
- How can we ensure the success of youth?

Desired Outcomes/Implications

- Identify the **factors most impacting the lives of Cincinnati youth**, and the services youth currently receive to address these factors.

- **Recommend changes to improve the quality of life** for Cincinnati youth, including educational, health, safety, and developmental outcomes, to ensure their future success.

- **Identify gaps** within current programs, and **prioritize youth resources** citywide to enable Cincinnati to become a more nurturing and constructive place for youth.

- Create recommendations to **close gaps and improve service coordination and delivery**, including recommendation on **resource allocation and prioritization**, and the total investment required to maximize impact.

- **Other outcomes and implications** will result based on study goals and quantitative and qualitative data collected.

Youth Summit Overview

- This summit is **unique** in that it is entirely **youth driven**.

- Programming topics were determined by a committee of young people, and workshops will be co-led by a young person and an expert on the subject.

- Participants will choose four workshops to attend from a wide variety of programming options.

- Day will conclude with separate youth and parent "Speak Outs," where participants will get a designated amount of time to "speak out" on the chosen topics.

- Between 500-700 young people are expected to attend.

Summit Overview (cont.)

- **Examples of Programming Topics:**
    - College Budgeting and Preparation
    - Leadership and Academic Development
    - Professionalism and "On the Job" Behavior
    - Poverty/Homelessness "Real Life" Experience
    - Mental Health Issues
    - Healthy Lifestyles
    - Responsible Use of Social Media and Bullying

- **"Speak Out" Topics:**
    - Responsible Use of Social Media
    - Bullying/Cyber Bullying
    - Conflict Resolution/Avoidance

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Save the Date

- *WHAT:*   Cincinnati Youth Summit: "Our Time to Shine"

- *WHEN:*   Saturday, November 9, 2013

                 10:00am to 4:00pm

- *WHERE:*   Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

- *WHO:*   7th through 12th grade students

- *WHY:*   To educate, engage, and energize our youth!

Questions?

For More Information:

Office of Councilmember Yvette Simpson
Cincinnati City Hall
801 Plum St., Ste. 346-B
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 352-5260
yvette.simpson@cincinnati-oh.gov

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9. U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey. Web. http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP02. Note that in future years the method for measuring Ohio high school graduation rates will change. This may result in graduation rate fluctuations that are unrelated to actual rate changes.

10. Supra, Note 7.